12th October 1928]

A.—(*a*) Wherever by local custom, the work of removing prickly-pear from bunds of irrigation tanks is usually executed by the joint labour of the village community and when any ryot neglects or refuses without reasonable cause to comply with an official requisition for such customary labour, the ryot concerned can be called on to pay his share of the cost.

(*b*) Under section 6 of Madras Act I of 1858. It is entirely a question of fact whether the local custom does or does not exist; and so no point for legal opinion arises.

(*c*) There is a paragraph in the descriptive memoir of the settlement registers of most districts detailing the works which the ryots have to attend to according to local custom.

(*d*) The Government have no specific information to that effect.

(*e*) The question of amending the Act is under consideration.

Landlord and Tenant

Settlement operations in Parlakimedi estate.

* 603 *Q.*—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo: With reference to the reply given to the question No. 209 answered on the 6th September 1928 will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have arrived at a decision on the question;

(*b*) if not, whether the Government will consider the desirability of directing the Assistant Settlement Officer, Ganjam, not to proceed further with the settlement operations in Parlakimedi estate till the Government arrive at a decision; and

(*c*) the reasons why settlement operations in Parlakimedi estate were given preference even though such operations for villages in the Tekkali, Nandigam, Khallikote, Attagada and Dharakote estates were sanctioned earlier?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Government have not yet arrived at a decision. They are awaiting a report from the Collector.

(*c*) No preference was given to settlement work in the Parlakimedi estate. The same officer was appointed to work in all the estates mentioned and took charge on the 23rd February last.

Minor Irrigation

Inclusion of the 'Kilanur madugu' in Tiruvellore taluk in the Imperial list.

* 604 *Q.*—Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Public Works Department Imperial list tank No. 466 of Tiruvellore taluk, Chingleput district, known as "Kilanur madugu" alias "Vishnuvakam madugu thangal," tank No. 2 of Karikalavakam tank group of the Red Hills Minor Basin, actually irrigates 131 acres 99 cents in the village of Karikalavakam, 147 acres 21 cents in the village of Vishnuvakam, 30 acres and 40 cents in the village of Vilapakam, 89 acres and 4 cents in Kilanur and 48 acres and 50 cents in Arumbakam, amounting in all to 447 acres and 23 cents;

[12th October 1928

(b) whether it is a fact that before the resettlement of the Tank Restoration Scheme party in their memoirs under the heading details of irrigation, the ayacut area under the source was wrongly given as 3·24 acres instead of 324 acres;

(c) whether it is due to this clerical mistake that has crept into the printed memoirs that this tank is treated as a minor source and kept under the Revenue department for its repairs, although the actual area of the tank is about 3 square miles; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to transfer this Issa tank to the Public Works Department classifying the same as an imperial one, as it actually irrigates about 450 acres yielding a revenue of more than Rs. 2,000?

A.—(a) Kilanur Maduvu is in charge of the Public Works Department and has according to the resettlement register prepared in fasli 1320 a registered ayacut of 429·95 acres in Kilanur village only. It is not identical with the Vishnuvakkam Maduvu Tangal, which is a minor irrigation tank in charge of the Revenue Department.

According to the resettlement register, the registered ayacut of the Vishnuvakkam Maduvu Tangal is 284·14 acres as detailed below.

Village.	Extent in acres.	Assessment. RS.	A.
Karikalavakkam	131·99	482	1
Vishnuvakkam	121·75	624	4
Vilapakkam	30·40	159	0
Total ...	284·14	1,265	5

No lands in Kilanur or Arambakkam village are irrigated by this tank.

(b) & (c) The Government are not aware that the facts are as stated.

(d) The question of the transfer of the tank to the Public Works Department is under correspondence between the Collector and the Executive Engineer, Chingleput.

Water rate

Diminishing of gingelly crop area in East and West Godavari owing to heavy penalties.

*605 *Q.*—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that gingelly crop area in the East and West Godavari has been diminishing gradually during the last four years and whether the same is due to the heavy penalty rate levied for closed channel irrigation unlike garlic and chillies for which only single water rate is charged; and

(b) whether the Government intend to modify the rules making the levy uniform?